PRESIDENT: It used to be so, at one time as I have stated on a previous occasion. But, fortunately it is not so now. At one time, all our cured fish went to Ceylon. Only about four months ago Ceylon prohibited the import of cured fish from Travancore. That is one of the amiable interchanges that took place between this Government and the Government of Ceylon. They prohibited the import of eggs, cured fish and vegetables into Ceylon. In all these three items, this Government had a very large amount of export. But when the Government of Ceylon imposed some embargo this Government took retaliatory action in respect of tapioca. Honourable members are probably aware of it. But the war made a slight difference. They asked the Government of India to make an urgent demand on Travancore to send as much eggs, fish and vegetables as possible. This Government said that they are not going to supply any vegetables or egg to the Ceylon Government. Anybody else who is in Ceylon-may be the Military authorities-may be given this fish and eggs. Negotiations were in progress and so far as eggs are concerned they are supplied at the rate of 80,000 a day. With regard to cured and smoked fish, there are negotiations now going on by which a large extent of smoked fish would be sent to the South Eastern Asia Command and certain other centres. At present a good deal of cured fish is not being exported.

MR. K. M. PAUL: Sir, It was stated that the price of salt has increased in recent times: May I know what is the special reason for the increase?

PRESIDENT: The price of salt has been fixed on a basic rate plus the cost of transport. Because the cost of transport went up the price of salt also went up.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 10,000 under Demand No. XX-Fisheries, was put to vote and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XXVI – AYURVEDA.

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: Sir, I move for a grant of Rs. 19,500 under demand No: XXVI—Ayurveda, for purchase of drugs and preparation of medicines in the Ayurveda Pharmacy. This amount consists of two portions. The first for Rs. 7,000 it asked to be provided under purchase of medicines. This is required to meet the extra cost incurred in the matter of medicines purchased in the Government hospitals in Trivandrum. The prices of all drugs have gone up considerably and also more drugs had to be supplied to the hospitals and so on that account Rs. 7,000 had to be incurred. That amount is required for crediting to another head.

Rs. 12,500, the second portion, is required under Debt Head-Advances, purely. It is required for the sale of medicines in pharmacies. We have to advance money. The pharmacies sell and recoup the amount. A portion of the demand is also to be used for payment to contractors for the supply of medicines.

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The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 19,500 inder demand No. XXVI, Ayurveda was put to vote and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XXVII - PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION.

RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*) : Sir, I move for a grant of Rs. 17,340 under demand No. XXVII Public Health and Sanitation. Out of this amount. Rs. 6,440 is required to defray the expenditure for the purchase of pyrocide for tick. This insecticide has become necessary owing to the wide prevalence of malaria in the wooded hills of Travancore.

It was not possible till last April to purchase it Only recently this was procured. Hence the expenditure had to be incurred. It was an unexpected expenditure and had to be met immediately.

The other item viz., Rs. 10,900, is required to defray the cost of quinine, and thus the total allotment required stands at Rs. 17,340. I request the House to sanction this amount.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: What is the purpose that is served by this Pip Ready-to- spray?

RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI : It is a variety of pyrethrum pyrocide, which is now used for spraying houses as a measure of malaria control.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether this insecticide is for praying houses?

RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI : Yes.

MR. K. T. MICHAEL : Is this spraying done anywhere now?

RAJYASEVANIRATHA DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI: Yes. It is being done on an extensive scale in Nedumangad and Neyyattinkara Taluks.

MR. P. O. THOMAS : Is the amount under travelling allowance meant for expenditure during the coming two months? Or it to meet the expenditure already incurred?

RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI : Only portions of the amount allotted for the touring have been met and the rest has to be expended.

MR. P. O. THOMAS : What is the amount hitherto spent?

RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI : About Rs. 800.

MR. P. O. THOMAS : With regard to this particular item I oppose the grant. In fact my opposition is based upon a small experience that another member representing my constituency and myself had with respect to a requisition made to the Director of Public Health a few months ago. It may be noted that in the Taluk of Parur there is only one rural midwife functioning. We felt the urgent necessity of a midwife in a particular pakuthy where the people had no access to any other place, of medical aid and where hospitals were not in easy reach.

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